

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE FELLOWSHIP

But Florentine politicians who had listened to Catherine's words, Buonaccorso di Lapo Giovanni alone remained. Highly trusted by the State, and employed in many embassies, he was accused on his return from a mission to Milan, in November, 1388, of having accepted a bribe from Gian Galeazzo Visconti. He appealed to be heard in his own defence, upon which Franco Sacchetti, speaking for the College of Gonfalonieri, proposed that he should be heard in secret and at night. Having thus obtained three days' grace, Buonaccorso fled from Florentine territory, and was declared a traitor and a rebel.¹ There was one faithful disciple of Catherine's still left in Florence; untouched by the winds of faction that smote these *pib alte time*, the tailor, Francesco di Pippino, still continued to work in her sweet memory, making his humble home a centre for all that looked for righteousness in those stormy times.
^c When thou dost wish to write to me," wrote Giovanni dalle Celle to Guido dal Palagio, "give the letters to Francesco, the tailor, a man faithful and loyal even unto death."²

The great friendship that bound Neri di Landoccio to Stefano Maconi remained unbroken until the former's death. In obedience to Catherine's dying charge, to join the Carthusians, and in spite of much opposition from his own family, Stefano entered the Certosa of S. Pietro di Pontignano in the spring of 1381. "I tell thee, dearest brother," he wrote, on May 30, to Neri, "with heartfelt gladness, that our benign God, through His inestimable goodness and not for my own merits, has turned the eye of His mercy towards me, wretched man, unworthy of any grace, and has vouchsafed to let me receive the holy habit here. I write this to thee, albeit very briefly, in order that thou mayest partake with me of the sweet joy and gladness that my soul feels. I do not tell thee how and why it came to pass, because the time is too short and the story too long ; but this, at least, I will not conceal from thee, that our holy Mamma has amply shown me by the results what she promised so emphatically

¹ *Anmimo Florentine*, p. 480 ; Gherardi's introduction, p. 280.

^a June I, 1392. *Lettere fit.*, 23.